



The Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Semimonthly News Bulletin

November 15, 1997

The Center of Excellence is a partnership between:

- *The University of Hawaii*
- *United States Pacific Command*
- *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- *The Pacific Regional Medical Command, Tripler AMC*



*A World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization Collaborating Center
for Humanitarian Civil-Military Cooperation*

Mission Statement

The Center facilitates civil-military operations and cooperation through integrated education, training, research, information management and operational readiness.

Center of Excellence Builds Strategies Which Meet Increasing Demand for Its Services

With the start of a new fiscal year, the Center's strategic initiatives for the next few years will be focused on keeping pace with the demand for civil-military training, while increasing the proportion of time devoted to research and operations.

"The immense popularity and strength of the Center's training initiatives has meant this function has, in the past, taken the lion's share of staff time and attention," said Dr. Skip Burkle, the Center's Director, "There are several options we will be employing to meet these commitments, while fulfilling research and operations needs."

Currently the Center conducts several major training conferences and courses per year. The demand for joint training continues to grow, as new sectors of the military discover the value and relevance of the Center's training, as well as new opportunities for developing curriculum geared toward more specialized subjects, such as nuclear, biochemical and technological warfare, cyber-terrorism and security issues.

Discussed were promoting satellite training, retaining faculty, hiring more trainers and a curriculum developer, and scheduling standard courses through the Joint Medical Readiness Training Center.

Staying on the cutting edge of disaster management and response, information management, and research in order to stay ahead of the curve for operational requirements, particularly as it relates to civil-military operations, is a key focus for the Center.

The increase in funding for fiscal 1997/98 permits the development of a research program. A panel of seven individuals, spearheaded by Gary Rhyne, project manager from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will select proposals which meet the goals of the COE's mission.

Focus on... the COE/CDC Partnership

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance have entered into a joint collaboration which focuses on humanitarian and disaster related issues in the Asia-Pacific Region.

This unique partnership was engineered to further enhance CDC's presence in the Pacific and to create a joint partnership for collaboration in training, education and research with the Center of Excellence to support domestic, (cont'd...)



An enthusiastic audience awaits a COE training session

Coronado Naval Air Base Hosts Center for Humanitarian Assistance Training

The Center of Excellence training team took its show on the road during the last week of October to the Coronado Naval Air Station to instruct eighty-eight logisticians, planners and physicians from the Navy, Air Force and Marines on the basics of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The five-day Multiforces Humanitarian Training Conference (MFHT), a COE mainstay, offers a variety of speakers gleaned from the Center's international faculty, as well as COE Director Dr. Skip Burkle, Major Pat Hastings, and Dr. Richard Brennan.

Several other MFHT conferences are already scheduled for 1998.

U.S. military and international humanitarian efforts both in the Pacific and worldwide.

The agreement between the CDC and the COE will be for a period of at least two years. This unique collaboration will serve to provide the CDC with the resources and staff to extend educational, operational and research activities to the Pacific region. The primary focus of this effort is in the disciplines of natural and complex humanitarian disasters.

One of the major objectives of the CDC staff will be to explore and develop research opportunities for the CDC in the Pacific region. A joint benefit of the collaboration will be the ability to draw upon the extensive resources and expertise of both organizations to better serve the people of the Pacific area.

The team, consisting of two CDC personnel, a Medical Epidemiologist and a Public Health Advisor, were first assigned to the Center of Excellence in June 1997. Richard Brennan, MBBS, MPH, a visiting scientist who received his medical degree from the University of Sydney, Australia, holds certification in emergency medicine as well as a Masters of Public Health from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Dr. Brennan's varied international experience includes three tours in Bosnia with the International Medical Corps and time served in Tajikistan. Gary Rhyne, a Public Health Advisor with the CDC, brings seventeen years of experience in the management of domestic public health programs, as well as experience in training and education. Mr. Rhyne's educational background includes a Masters in Public Administration from Syracuse University. Prior to being assigned to the Center of Excellence, Mr. Rhyne spent ten years with the National Immunization Program.



Gary Rhyne, Project Manager (left) and Rick Brennan, Research Physician (right), comprise the CDC/COE Staff

Some Feedback on the Usefulness of COE Training in the Field...

"In March 1997, we had a 240kmph Cyclone Gavin which badly affected a part of Fiji. I would have to say that in general terms, what I learned in Hawaii in 1995 [at the Humanitarian Support Operations Conference] certainly assisted in maintaining the Fiji Red Cross Society's role as one of the leading players in Disaster Management and Relief. That training contributed to our behavior which in turn lead to both the British and French Governments channelling all of their aid to Fiji through the Fiji Red Cross."

-- John Scott, Director General, Fiji Red Cross Society



BGEN Warren A. Todd, Jr., Mrs. Todd, Senator Daniel K. Inouye

Center Receives ASPA Federal Program Award for 1997

The Center of Excellence has been selected the Outstanding Federal Program of the Year by the American Society for Public Administration, Hawaii Chapter (ASPA).

ASPA Chapter President Carla Hough said that the COE was selected for its "pursuit of excellence by leading an international effort for civilian/military, education, training, and research in disaster management and humanitarian assistance operations throughout the Asia-Pacific Region."

COE's PDMIN Product Meets Training Needs for NBC Readiness

The COE's Pacific Disaster Management Information Network (PDMIN) has provided the content and evaluation for a CD-ROM designed to instruct the military and disaster preparedness professionals in the unique aspects of containing and managing the effects of a nuclear, biological, chemical or terroristic event. The content is based on conference held by the Center held in December, 1996.

In its final stages of evaluation, "The NBCT Event" is expected to be released with an initial production of 2,000.

"It is the first product of its kind on this critical subject," said Randal Uehara, Educational Multimedia Developer for the COE. "Now interactive training on such a topical issue can take place anywhere and anytime, with reinforcement and updating of the materials as the needs of the command or NGO dictate."



Randal Uehara holds a draft copy of the COE's new NBCT CD-ROM

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